

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0083] with the following amended paragraph:

[0083] Cushion 1800 typically comprises one or more means for securing the cushion to adjustable shackle 304 or 804. As illustrated in FIG. 18, fastening means 1806 comprises a pin which comprises a flared end that is inserted through a hole located on a curved portion inner surface of adjustable shackle 304 or 804. The length of the pin is such that it will not allow cushion 1800 to be rotated or displaced laterally, disengaging the pin from the hole in the curved portion, thereby providing additional clearance that could allow the surfboard to be removed. Cushion 1800 additionally comprises retainers 1208 for wrapping around a portion of adjustable shackle 304 or 804, thereby additionally securing cushion 1800 in place. The retainers 1808 may comprise any material for wrapping around a portion of adjustable shackle 304 or 804 including string, tie-wraps, leather straps, or, in the embodiment shown in FIG. 18, VELCRO® Velcro straps. The retainers 1808 are secured to a rear portion of cushion 1800 by any suitable means, such as a pin, rivet, or other means.